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WARD, EDWARD J. *The Social Center.* Pp. x, 359. Price, \$1.50. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1913.

In this volume Edward J. Ward, the enthusiastic apostle of democracy, sets forth in an interesting way his own experience in the recent movement for the community use of the public schools in Rochester and in Wisconsin. The political significance of these efforts to develop an enlightened public opinion by making each neighborhood schoolhouse the meeting place of a self-organized, non-partisan, deliberative body, is first discussed at length. The recreational and educational activities of the magnified school are then taken up. Successive chapters deal with the school as Festival, Art, Music, and Recreation Center; as Public Lecture, Branch Library and Employment Center; and as Public Health Office. One illuminating chapter treats the Social Center in Rural Communities. The author makes copious quotations from writers on each subject; the final chapters consider the reaction of the newer uses of the school upon our educational system—both university and public school.

But the various new uses of the school for which such extravagant claims are made—in the attempt to show the school, in theory, at least, the all-comprehensive social institution—must prove their value experimentally before being accepted; enlargement of function will certainly come gradually, and only where other organizations have not been developed to fill recognized social needs.

The innovation of the use of the schoolhouse as public forum, however, seems already to have received the approval of our political leaders who have the social welfare at heart. Justice Hughes said at a Rochester civic meeting: "I am more interested in what you are doing and what it stands for than anything else in the world; you are buttressing the foundations of democracy. And President Wilson, at the first national social center conference at Madison declared: "What I see in this movement is a recovery of the constructive and creative genius of the American people."

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WILCOX, DELOS F. *Government by All the People.* Pp. xi, 324. Price \$1.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1912.

The author has not attempted to discuss the specific forms of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall that have been adopted in various states and cities, or to cite in support of the argument for them the experience of these states and cities.

The work is divided into four parts: Part I, the introduction, discusses the conditions that led to the current revival in democracy. Part II explains the Initiative, and discusses the objections to it,—namely that it would destroy constitutional stability; would foster the tyranny of the majority; would tend to the subversion of judicial authority; would result in unscientific legislation and would lead to radical legislation, and that it would be used by special

interests to get the better of the people. He then turns to the arguments in its favor: that it would utilize the individual in politics; that it would result in the drafting of new laws by those who wish them to succeed; that it would enable the sovereign to enforce its will without the consent of the legislature; and that it would provide an orderly means of extending or restricting the suffrage.

Part III explains the Referendum, and discusses the objections to it: that it would afford the legislative branch an excuse for shirking responsibility; that it would interfere with the orderly performance of governmental functions. The author then discusses the arguments in its favor,—namely, that it would remove temptation from the legislative branch by withdrawing its ultimate power to bestow special privileges; that it would conduce to the conservation of public resources, and that it would serve to keep legislation in line with public sentiment.

Part IV explains the Recall and overthrows the objections to it; that it would tend to weaken official courage and independence, make public offices less attractive to high-class men, and would violate the moral right of the official to hold office during the full term for which he was chosen. He decides in its favor, especially because, through it, the people would have a continuing right to correct mistakes in the selection of their public servants, and because it would clear the way for the concentration of responsibility and longer official tenures. He feels that the recall of judges may not be a necessary, nor even the best remedy, for the practical abuses that flourish in the courts. He thinks its chief danger would be, however, not that it would degrade the courts and make the judges mere puppets of the people's will, but that it might not prove effective as a remedy for present judicial conditions. He feels that the present judicial situation imposes conservatism upon the people through an inflexible institution, and that the imposition of arbitrary restraints upon the people will lead to discontent and ultra-radicalism. Part V is given over to the considerations for and against majority rule:—the effect of the Initiative, the Referendum and the Recall combined.

There is a good index. Like the other works from Dr. Wilcox's pen, this volume is the result of careful, inclusive study. It easily takes its place at once among the leading two or three books on the subject.

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